

Promising Practice: Project CHOICE Participant Selection Process for Turtle Mountain Community College

The HPOG (Health Professions Opportunity Grant) program, Project CHOICE, implemented its application and screening process for students interested in one of the allied health programs offered by the Turtle Mountain Community College. The process helps inform students about the allied health program and expectations for the prospective participants. The allied health program includes Nursing, Pharmacy Technician, and Phlebotomy.

Applications are screened by a selection committee comprised of instructors of the respective programs, a student services representative, and Project CHOICE staff. This process takes place before or at the beginning of the fall semester. Background checks are required before an applicant can begin the screening process.

As part of the application and screening process, interviews are scheduled for applicants selected to participate in Project CHOICE. Interviews provide the selection committee an opportunity to observe the participant's level of commitment to a chosen program of study and to learn how the program can help the participant succeed.

Once the application and screening process is complete, the selected applicants are required to attend orientation. Orientation takes place within two weeks of the interview. Students receive a Project CHOICE student handbook and expectations for both participant and Project CHOICE are explained and outlined. The handbook and orientation help students consider their selected course of study, think about the expectations of each allied health program; and decide if program is the right course of study.

After orientation, the participant is assessed using the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) to determine if he or she is a good fit for the allied health program of study. Once the applicant is accepted in the program, all releases of information and a contract between the participant and Project CHOICE are signed. The contract lets the participant know what steps need to be followed to accomplish his or her goal.

HPOG grantees can adopt the practice by implementing the following key steps:

1. Establish a selection committee comprised of instructors of the respective programs, student representative, and HPOG program staff.
2. Determine the elements of the screening process (i.e., criteria, eligibility, backgrounds checks, etc.)
3. Set up a comprehensive orientation process to provide all information to prospective participants about the HPOG program (i.e., benefits, challenges and expectations)